

Lambda Letters Project

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Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

All in Fairness

by Boyce Hinman, Administrator

Did you know that some people are prohibited from ever working and that this burden falls especially hard on people of color? Don't believe me? Consider the following.

On May 15th the Federal Reserve Board increased the federal funds interest rate by one-half percent to over nine percent. This is the highest rate in eight years. The federal funds rate is the rate that banks charge when they lend money to each other.

The Federal Reserve had been increasing interest rates a quarter percent every three months for about a year. However, in February the unemployment rate went below four percent for the first time in years. This really alarmed the Federal Reserve and so they increased interest rates one-half percent this time.

The members of the Federal Reserve believe that low unemployment puts too much money in the hands of the American public and drives up the demand for goods and services. This increased demand, in turn, puts upward pressure on prices. It stimulates inflation. By increasing interest rates the Fed hopes to slow the economy and stop inflation. If higher interest rates make it more expensive to build homes, cars, and TVs, fewer people will buy them. This lower demand re-

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Davis Does It Again

by Boyce Hinman, Administrator

Last year Governor Davis killed a very important clean needle-exchange bill that would have made it much easier for local governments to establish clean needle and syringe exchange programs. The bill, AB 518, was introduced by Assemblymember Kerry Mazzoni (D-San Rafael). It was passed by both houses of the state legislature and sent to the governor for signature. However, Davis forced Mazzoni to withdraw the bill. Thus he effectively vetoed the bill without taking the heat from the HIV/AIDS community that would have resulted from an outright veto.

Last month Davis struck again. Senator Kevin Murray (D-Los Angeles) introduced SB 1389, which would require police departments to count and report the number of traffic stops done by their officers. The reports would include the race and ethnicity of the persons stopped. The purpose of the bill was to illuminate the problem of racial profiling carried out by many police in the state. Blacks and Latino/as report that they frequently are stopped simply because they are black or brown. In mid-May the governor forced Murray to drop this bill and to substitute another bill, SB 66, which would require police officers to give their business cards to people they stop for traffic violations.

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Messages Collected

April, 2000	16,708 letters & e-mails
In all of 2000	44,762 letters & e-mails

Dollars Spent

April, 2000	\$1,485
In all of 2000	\$6,312

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Mission Statement

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy, and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, transgendered persons, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

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If so, you may register a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing. In cases of employment discrimination, call the department at (800) 884-1684. In cases of housing discrimination, call (800) 233-3212.

The person answering the phone will schedule an appointment for you at the Department of Fair Employment and Housing Office which is closest to your home or place of employment.

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Continuing to Correct Welfare "Reform": Restoring Benefits to Some Immigrants

by Marty Martinez

Welfare "reform" laws, such as the major one in 1996 and other bills aimed at immigrants, have restricted the types and amounts of services available to both documented and undocumented immigrants. AB 2417 (Firebaugh, D-Cudahy) attempts to restore some of those benefits.

Currently, legal immigrants who arrived in the United States after August 22, 1996, are scheduled to lose certain California-provided benefits on September 30, 2000. The benefits that will be lost include eligibility for the California Food Assistance Program (CFAP) and Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants (CAPI), which provide, respectively, state-provided food stamps and Supplemental Security Income benefits to immigrants. This bill repeals the September 30, 2000 cutoff indefinitely, thereby ensuring that immigrants throughout the state who depend on these programs will not be arbitrarily cut off from these vital services. The bill is currently in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Its future is uncertain because Governor Davis did not propose money for its implementation in his revised May budget. But we must do what we can to educate our senators on the need for this legislation.

See You on June 17th

At The Lambda Freedom Fair
South Side Park in Sacramento

(916) 965-6851

Training Teachers in Gender Equity

by Adrienne Lauby

It's been three decades since a feminist wave swept this country and women told each other stories about their experiences in school: *I got good grades, so they called me a nerd... Because my speech was slurred, they put me in the class for slow learners... After my breasts grew, groups of boys followed me through the halls egging each other on, pointing and giggling... No one ever called on me because I was shy... I was told that shorthand and typing was enough to prepare me for my future.*

In 1994 the California legislature passed a bill to provide for ongoing assessment of gender equity in teacher training. Governor Wilson vetoed that bill, which also required gender-equity training for new teachers and funded training programs to pass on the best techniques to seasoned teachers.

The bill has been resurrected this session as AB 908 (Elaine White Alquist, D-Santa Clara). If it is passed, children entering middle school this fall will have a more equal chance to learn, prepare, develop, and achieve.

Academics and researchers have documented gender-equity problems many times in both public and private schools. Numerous studies have shown that not only were the criticisms of those feminists true but that the thirty years since have seen little improvement.

Teachers, administrators, and peers support a hierarchy that gives white boys the most attention and support, and girls of color the least. The absence of girls, students of color, and disabled children in science and math classes is especially troublesome. Even the U.S. Department of Education currently stresses the importance of treating girls in such a way that they feel part of the traditional male atmosphere in science and math classrooms.

Some teachers are aware of gender discrimination and convinced they are completely fair in their classroom. Yet even these good teachers often continue to call on boys more frequently and give them more encouragement for their participation.

It's been thirty years. The research is done. It's time for change.

Family Rights for Domestic Partners

by Boyce Hinman

In 1980 my partner, Larry, quit his job in San Francisco to follow me to Sacramento when my employer transferred me to that city. We were lucky. He found a job within two to three months. During that time, we lived on just my income. It could have been longer. I am sure other couples have split under similar circumstances because they couldn't handle the loss of income. At the very least, it puts a real strain on a relationship.

During the 1980s the courts ruled that, in the case of married couples, one spouse could quit a job and yet qualify for unemployment insurance payments if the person quitting was doing so to follow a spouse in a job transfer. I'm sure that made it a lot easier for such couples. One purpose of AB 2421 (Migden, D—San Francisco) is to level the playing field and give the same right to domestic partners who register with the state.

AB 2421 also gives domestic partners the right to donate the organs of a deceased partner, the right to take sick leave to care for a domestic partner or the domestic partner's children or parents, and the right to submit a disability insurance claim on behalf of his or her domestic partner if the partner is mentally unable to do so.

These are important new rights that will do much to support and strengthen families led by domestic partners. It deserves your support. Slowly, but surely, our families are getting the support and recognition they deserve. We need to keep up the pressure to make sure that really happens.

Please write to the California Senate Judiciary Committee in support of this important bill.



Governor's Mixed HIV Budget

by Marty Martinez, AIDS Project East Bay

Governor Gray Davis released his revised budget on May 15, 2000. Although the budget revision does call for an increase of \$2.4 million in HIV/AIDS funding for drug resistance testing—which helps determine the most effective therapies for persons with HIV—this is a small fraction of the sum that HIV/AIDS advocates have been calling for.

The new budget does not address the crisis of HIV in communities of color, nor does it address the need for enhanced and improved partner counseling and referral services (PCRS) and the implementation of a non-names-based system for collecting data on the number of new HIV cases.

The State Senate and Assembly budget subcommittees on health have both approved an \$8 million request to fund prevention and treatment programs for communities of color; a \$1 million request for improved PCRS; and \$2.8 million to implement a system of reporting HIV cases that does not collect the names of persons infected with HIV (the Assembly subcommittee tabled this final request, but will hopefully include the amount at a later date).

E-mail or write Governor Davis and extend your thanks for his inclusion of money for HIV-resistance testing, but also express your disappointment that the budget revision does not go far enough. His email address is graydavis@governor.ca.gov.

You can view the governor's revised May budget (which is an update of the budget he released in January that budget flat-funded all AIDS programs) at the Web site of the California Department of Finance (<http://www.dof.ca.gov>).

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Send your request with a stamped, self-addressed envelope and we'll send you a complete list of your elected officials. Or go to www.lambdaletters.org to find out who represents you.

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June Legislative Update

The following is the list of important state bills that we are aware of at this time. There are important deadlines that affect state legislation. All new bills for this year had to be introduced no later than February 25th. Any additional bills will have to wait until next year before they can be introduced. However, legislators can introduce a new concept by changing the wording and purpose of an existing bill.

All bills have to be approved by a policy committee in each house of the legislature. In addition, any bills having significant cost to the state must be approved by the Appropriations Committees of both houses. Any bill having such costs must have been approved by its policy committee, in its house of origin, no later than April 28th. Bills with no major cost to the state had to be approved by their policy committees, in their house of origin, no later May 12th.

Here are the definitions of three terms or phrases you will find in the following list of bills:

- ♦ **The Consent Calendar:** This is a list of bills that legislators expect everyone to approve of. To save time the bills are voted on as a group, rather than one by one. At the time of the vote, any one legislator can have a particular bill removed from the list for a separate vote.
- ♦ **The Suspense File:** This is a list of bills that will be voted on individually, but at a later date. Often appropriations committees will put off votes in this way on expensive bills.
- ♦ **Reconsideration Granted:** Sometimes when a bill is defeated in a committee vote, the committee will also vote to reconsider the bill at a later date. In theory, however, the bill must be re-voted on prior to the deadlines outlined above.



VICKI PFINGST

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HIV/AIDS Issues

AB 16 (Mike Honda, D-San Jose)

Purpose: Under current law the state and counties split the costs of providing publicly funded in-home supportive services for aged blind and disabled persons. However, if the counties or the agencies they contract with to provide the services grant a pay raise to the workers providing the care, the counties must foot the whole cost of the raise. This bill changes the law to say that even these pay raises will be funded equally by the state and the counties. Note: The budget just passed allows the state to pay 50 cents of any pay raise. The author is still pushing this bill to get the state to pay 50 percent of any pay raise.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Is a two-year bill in the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. Probably will not be voted on by the committee till June.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 142 (Kevin Shelley, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To require that every health care service plan provide medical care in accordance with accepted medical practices and provide emergency health care services, and to ensure confidentiality of the medical information of an enrollee. Plans must provide access to a wide variety of primary health care providers and specialty health care providers to ensure that the enrollee is able to choose a qualified doctor or other health care provider.

Status: Approved by the Assembly. Is a two-year bill in the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file. Probably will not be voted on by the committee till June.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 499 (Dion Aroner, D-Berkeley)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Health Services to establish a pilot program to test the effectiveness of providing an assisted living benefit to low-income beneficiaries, including those with AIDS, under the Medi-Cal program.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on June 14th.

LLP Position: Support.

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June Legislative Update

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AB 591 (Howard Wayne, D—San Diego)

Purpose: To require health care service plans and certain disability insurers to cover routine patient costs related to treatment in a clinical trial of experimental medications.

Status: Is in the suspense file of the Senate Appropriations Committee. No action expected until June.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1722 (Martin Gallegos, D—City of Industry)

Purpose: Previously passed legislation says that health care service plans cannot stop covering a medication for a patient while the patient is under treatment for a particular ailment for which that drug has been prescribed. This legislation adds that the health care provider cannot increase the copayment or other deductible for the medication during the course of treatment of a disease for which the medication has been prescribed.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Health and Appropriations Committees and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1798 (Audie Bock, I—Oakland)

Purpose: To collaborate with Alameda County to implement a pilot program to fund clinics that provide screening and harm reduction services for HIV to also provide screening and harm reduction services for hepatitis.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee and put on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1955 (Carol Migden, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To ask the federal government to provide funds for the design, establishment, and operation of a state program to offer medical assistance to workers with potentially severe disabilities.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Health Committee and put on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

LLP Position: Tentative support pending additional information.

AB 2037 (Ellen Corbett, D—San Leandro)

Purpose: Existing law requires the State Department of Social Services to conduct a demonstration project to provide certain services to children, under the age of 37 months, who are alcohol- or drug-exposed or who are HIV-positive. This bill increases the age to 72 months.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Human Services Committee and put on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2787 (Bill Leonard, R—Rancho Cucamonga)

Purpose: To authorize construction of a correctional facility designed to incarcerate inmates with special health needs due to advanced age or infection with HIV separate from the general prison population and which would address these inmate's needs in a manner consistent with department policy.

Status: Hearing in Assembly Public Safety Committee scheduled for April 25th was cancelled at author's request. The bill is probably dead.

LLP Position: Watch while we give the bill further study.

AB 2809 (Robert Pacheco, R—City of Industry)

Purpose: Existing law requires that a blood specimen be obtained from a pregnant woman before or at the time of delivery. The blood must be tested for blood type and the presence of hepatitis B. This bill would require the blood also to be tested for the presence of HIV. A woman could refuse HIV testing if she has been determined to be chronically infected with HIV or if a medical professional explains the purpose of testing and the currently approved treatments. Proponents and opponents agreed to several good amendments to this bill prior to its being approved by the Assembly Health Committee. For example, the revised version requires that the woman give informed, written consent prior to HIV testing. However, the California Medical Association tried to amend in some of the bad features of the bill again before the Health Committee vote. They failed at this time.

Status: Was approved by the Assembly Health Committee, and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Neutral.

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June Legislative Update

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AJR 47 (Gil Cedillo, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To petition the President and the U.S. Congress to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act quickly to ensure resources are available to meet the expanding health care and social service needs of people living with HIV disease.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Placed on the Senate Consent Calendar.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 848 (John Vasconcellos, D—San Jose)

Purpose: To require the state Department of Health Services to establish a voluntary program for the issuance of identification cards to qualified patients and would establish procedures under which those patients may use marijuana for medical purposes.

Status: Passed the Senate. Is a two-year bill on the floor of the Assembly. No action on the bill is expected soon.

SB 1258 (Richard Polanco, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require California to solicit approval from the federal government for California to provide Medi-Cal coverage to individuals who are HIV-positive, but who do not have AIDS. Current federal regulations limit the provision of Medi-Cal to people who have AIDS or who are otherwise disabled.

Status: Passed by the Senate. Is a two-year bill in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. The author is negotiating with others to find changes in the bill needed to get enough votes to pass the bill. No votes on the bill expected until early June. This bill will probably die.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 2089 (Maurice Johannessen, R—Redding)

Purpose: To require that a physician recommending the use of marijuana to a patient keep very detailed records on the subject as specified.

Status: Failed in a vote in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee, but reconsideration granted. Hearing cancelled by author. The bill is probably dead.

LLP Position: Watch. Its real purpose may be to discourage physicians from recommending the use of marijuana.

SB 2189 (Nell Soto, D—Ontario)

Purpose: To require the completion of a one-semester course in health education as a requirement for high school graduation.

Status: Failed the Senate Education Committee. Reconsideration granted. Bill is probably dead.

LLP Position: Support.

Lesbian/Gay/Bisexual/Transgendered Issues

AB 1712 (Jim Cunneen, R—Campbell)

Purpose: The purpose of this bill has been entirely changed. It no longer relates to one of our issues. The bill will be removed from this list in the next revision of the list.

Status: Was approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee and put on that committee's suspense file.

LLP Position: Neutral.

AB 1785 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require school districts to report incidents of hate crimes in their schools and to establish procedures for doing so.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Public Safety Committee. Sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Is in that committee's suspense file. Probably will be heard in late May.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1809 (George Runner, R—Lancaster)

Purpose: To establish a statewide hate crimes registry and to require registry of those convicted of serious or violent felonies resulting in death or great bodily injury, certain sex crimes, hate-based crimes (including sexual orientation-based hate crimes) or a property crime against a religious institution resulting in more than \$5,000 in damage.

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June Legislative Update

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Status: Put on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

LLP Position: Watch until we get further details. The author has not been a friend. Is a registry the best deterrent to hate crimes?

AB 1851 (John Longville, D-San Bernardino)

Purpose: To provide directions to California courts as to how to process petitions from post-operative transsexuals for recognition of their new sex and new gender-appropriate name.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Has been assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee for a hearing on June 6th.

LLP Position: Support. Lambda Letters is a sponsor of the bill.

AB 1906 (John Longville, D-San Bernardino)

Purpose: To remove funding restrictions in the Education Code's Hate Violence Protection Act.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Education and Appropriations Committees. May be voted on the Assembly floor on May 18th.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1931 (Jack Scott, D-Pasadena)

Purpose: To require school districts to report annually on the number of suspensions and recommendations for expulsions resulting from school hate crimes. Appropriates \$150,000 for training to assist school district staff in identification of hate crimes. Provides \$200,000 for student and teacher training focused on overcoming prejudice, countering hatred, and fostering ethnic sensitivity.

Status: Put on the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense calendar for a hearing in late May.

LLP Position: Support.

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AB 1990 (Gloria Romero, D-Monterey Park)

Purpose: To grant domestic partners the right to make medical decisions for their partners if the partner is in a health facility and incapable of giving informed consent to recommended treatment.

Status: Approved in the Assembly Appropriations Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2000 (Antonio Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To establish the California Commission on Human Relations in the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) to make policy recommendations to the Governor and the Legislature regarding the collection, dissemination of information, standards, and guidelines for local human relations commissions.

Appropriates \$150,000 to establish the commission.

Status: Was approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee suspense file.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2040 (Kevin Shelley, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To allow the courts to provide legal parental status to persons who use assistive reproductive technology to bear a child. The bill appears to give parental rights to the non-biological parent in same-sex couples who decide to have children.

Status: Was just introduced in Assembly. Recently dropped by the author.

LLP Position: Tentatively supported.

AB 2047 (Darrell Steinberg, D-Sacramento)

Purpose: To provide inheritance rights through intestate succession for domestic partners when one of the partners dies without a will. Also allows domestic partners in such cases to be appointed as administrator of the estate of the deceased partner.

Status: Was approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee and sent to the floor of the Assembly for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2142 (Fred Keeley, D-Santa Cruz)

Purpose: To amend the California Fair Employment and Housing Act to prohibit employment and housing discrimination based on actual or perceived gender.

Status: Was approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

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June Legislative Update

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LLP Position: Support. We are a cosponsor of the bill.

AB 2211 (Sheila Kuehl, D-Encino)

Purpose: To allow domestic partners the right to decide whether to have an autopsy performed, and make funeral arrangements after the death of a domestic partner, the right to sue for wrongful death and negligent infliction of emotional distress of a partner, and to allow reciprocity of registry from other jurisdictions.

Status: Was passed by the Assembly Judiciary and Appropriations Committees. Awaiting a final vote on the Assembly floor.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2418 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To prohibit an attorney from excusing a person from a jury simply because the person is a member of a particular racial, religious, ethnic, sexual

orientation, gender group, or on similar grounds.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Not assigned to a committee yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2421 (Carole Migden, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: The purpose of this bill was radically changed by amendment on April 6th. It now gives domestic partners several new rights, including the right to donate the organs of a deceased partner, the right to take sick leave to care for a domestic partner or the domestic partner's children or parents, the right to qualify for unemployment benefits if he or she voluntarily leaves a job to relocate with his or her partner, and the right to submit a disability insurance claim on behalf of his or her domestic partner if the partner is mentally unable to do so.

Status: Was approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a hearing on May 24th.

LLP Position: Support.

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June Legislative Update

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AB 2609 (Wally Knox, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To add social tolerance to the subjects that must be addressed in instruction in social sciences in grades 1 through 6.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Education Committee and put on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 118 (Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require employers to grant family and medical leave to employees who need to care for their domestic partners.

Status: Passed by the Senate and the Assembly. Sent to the Governor for signature.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1173 (John Vasconcellos D-San Jose)

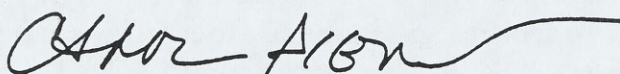
Purpose: To allow courts to grant reasonable child visitation rights to *de facto* parents, including domestic partners in cases where the parents of a child have separated.

Status: Passed the Senate and assigned to the Assembly Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Watch. There is some concern this might be used against biological mothers.

SB 1329 (Betty Karnette, D-Long Beach)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Motor Vehicles to establish a special interest license program. The bill had required that organizations which receive funds generated by the plates must not discriminate in their employment practices on the basis of race, gender, nationality, religion, political party affiliation, or sexual orientation. However, the author dropped this feature from the bill under pressure from the Governor.



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This change changes our position on the bill from support to neutral.

Status: Passed by Senate Transportation and Appropriations Committees. Sent to the Senate floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Neutral.

SB 1366 (Dick Monteith, R-Modesto)

Purpose: To direct the issuance of special license plates commemorating the Boy Scouts and directing that proceeds from the sale of these license plates go to the Boy Scouts. This organization discriminates on the basis of sexual orientation.

Status: Passed by Senate Transportation Committee Failed in Senate Appropriations Committee on a 4-4 vote. Granted reconsideration. Author will probably try again.

LLP Position: Oppose.

SB 1489 (Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: Requires that all local law enforcement agencies provide complete and accurate reports to the Attorney General of hate crimes in their jurisdictions whether or not funds are available.

Status: Was approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee and Appropriations Committees. Sent to the Senate floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1569 (Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To declare legislative intent to expand the definition of hate crimes to include those persons who are victimized based upon their association with other people of a specific race, religion, or sexual orientation.

Status: Was approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee. Failed in the Senate Appropriations Committee. Granted reconsideration.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 2025 (John Burton, D-San Francisco)

Purpose: To incorporate all the provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) into the State Civil Service Act. Thus provides the protections of FEHA (including protections from sexual orientation-based discrimination) to state employees.

Status: Was approved by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet.

LLP Position: Support.

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People of Color Issues

AB 52 (Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: The state runs several health programs that are partially supported with federal funds. Federal law says that neither federal nor state funds can be used to provide these programs to undocumented aliens.

Federal law also says that state funding may be used for this purpose if states pass specific legislation to provide these services to undocumented aliens with state funds. This law would do that.

Status: Passed the Assembly and all necessary Senate committees. Awaiting a vote on the Senate floor.

Author negotiating with the Governor to resolve differences.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 66 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require every peace officer in the state to receive training on racial profiling. This outlaws the practice. Requires peace officers to provide business cards to people stopped for alleged traffic violations.

The business card feature was added when the Governor forced the Senator to drop SB 1389.

Status: Passed the Senate and all necessary Assembly Committees. Awaiting a final vote on the Senate floor. If the Senate approves it, it would have to go back to the Assembly for concurrence with changes made in the Assembly.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 984 (Richard Polanco, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To establish March 31st as Cesar Chavez Day and to designate the date as a paid holiday for state employees.

Status: Has passed the Senate and the relevant Assembly Policy Committee. Is in the Assembly Appropria-

tions Committee's suspense file.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1326 (Tom Hayden, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require the State Department of Education to develop a human relations school curriculum addressing racism, sexism, homophobia, religious intolerance, and other forms of bigotry. Requires that school districts include the curriculum in their required course of study.

Status: Was approved by the Senate Education Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee suspense file.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1364 (Patrick Johnston, D-Stockton)

Purpose: Current law prohibits health care professionals and organizations from releasing the results of genetic testing to a third party without the prior written consent of the person tested. This bill stipulates that the prohibition also applies to genetic traits in which the person is asymptomatic for the disease which might result from a genetic trait.

Status: Passed by the full Senate and sent to the Assembly. Not assigned to a committee yet. May be double referred to the Assembly Health Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support

SB 1389 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To require state and local police forces to gather and report data about traffic stops by police officers, including the race or ethnicity of the persons stopped.

Status: Approved by the Senate Public Safety Committee and sent to the Senate Appropriations Committee. Probably will die because of opposition from the Governor.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1734 (Kevin Murray, D-Los Angeles)

Purpose: To declare legislative intent to enact laws to deter hate-motivated behavior, train teachers, school administrators, and law enforcement personnel regarding hate groups and hate-motivated behavior, improve tolerance and diversity curriculum for students in the lower elementary grades, and encourage community partnerships to minimize the influence of hate groups.

Deborah A. Brooks

Certified Public Accountant



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June Legislative Update

Continued from page 12

Status: Introduced. Being dropped by the author.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1898 (Hilda Solis, D–El Monte)

Purpose: To establish a program to increase the percentage of students transferring from California's community colleges to four-year colleges or universities.

Status: Will be heard in the Senate Appropriations Committee on May 29th.

LLP Position: Support.

Women's Issues

AB 40 (Howard Wayne, D–San Diego)

Purpose: To establish the Breast Cancer Treatment Program for purposes of providing breast cancer treatment services to uninsured and underinsured women with incomes at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty level. Also to require the State Department of Health Services to administer the program only when the Legislature has appropriated funds for the program.

Status: Passed by the Assembly. Is in the suspense file of the Senate Appropriations Committee. Probably will not be voted on in that committee until late Spring or early summer.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 398 (Carole Migden, D–San Francisco)

Purpose: To authorize the sale of bonds to provide funds for government backed affordable housing.

Status: Is in the Senate Housing and Community Development Committee. Assemblymember Migden is negotiating changes needed to get it approved by that committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 525 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Encino)

Purpose: To require hospitals and disability plans that provide health care services to include information in their promotional materials as to what family planning and reproductive services they provide. This will allow women to make informed decisions when determining which health plan to select.

Status: Passed by the Senate Insurance Committee and sent to the Senate Health and Human Services

Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 908 (Elaine White Alquist, D–Santa Clara)

Purpose: To establish the gender-equity train-the-trainer grant program for the award of grants from funds available for that purpose to the governing boards of school districts and county offices of education. The bill would require the Superintendent of Public Instruction to develop criteria for the grant applications and to select grant recipients. The end purpose of the program would be to train public school teachers in gender equity education.

Status: Passed the Assembly and the Senate education committee. In the Senate Appropriations Committee.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1814 (Ted Lempert, D–Palo Alto)

Purpose: To provide that mothers who are breast feeding their children are exempt from jury duty until they stop breast feeding their children.

Status: Was passed by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 1856 (Sheila Kuehl, D–Encino)

Purpose: To make non-owner, non-supervisory employees liable for harassment of coworkers on the basis of race, religious creed, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, medical condition, marital status, sex, age, or sexual orientation.

Introduced to reverse a State Supreme Court decision that said such harassment by owners or supervisors is prohibited by law, but not harassment by coworkers.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee and sent to the Assembly floor for a final vote in that house.

LLP Position: Support

AB 2038 (Elaine White Alquist, D–Santa Clara)

Purpose: To require a grantee in conducting or supporting a project of clinical research to ensure that women of all ages and members of minority groups are included as subjects in the clinical research projects.

Status: Approved by the Assembly and sent to the Senate. Assigned to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

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AB 2108 (Carole Migden, D—San Francisco)

Purpose: To require that all terminally-ill female inmates incarcerated within a correctional women's facility operated by, or pursuant to contract with, the Department of Corrections receive a standard of care similar to the treatment given to male inmates at the state prison facility in Vacaville.

Status: Passed by the Assembly and the Senate Public Services Committee. Is in the Senate Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

AB 2357 (Mike Honda, D—San Jose)

Purpose: To require employers to grant a victim of domestic abuse up to 15 days of unpaid leave in a twelve-month period so the employee can seek legal assistance, counseling, assistance from a domestic violence shelter, etc. to deal with the domestic violence.

Status: Approved by the Assembly Judiciary Committee and sent to the Assembly Appropriations Committee for a hearing on May 24th.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 193 (Richard Polanco, D—Los Angeles)

Purpose: Existing law provides for the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund. Ninety percent of the moneys in the Breast Cancer Research Account is allocated to the Breast Cancer Research Program created at the University of California. This bill would require the State Department of Health Services to offer for sale breast cancer license plates to be sold at a price determined by the department, with the proceeds to be deposited into the Breast Cancer Research Account in the Breast Cancer Fund.

Status: Was passed by the Senate and sent to the Assembly. Is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. Probably will not be heard until late Spring.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1154 (Jackie Speier, D—Daly City)

Purpose: Would enact the California Breast and Gynecological Cancer Treatment Program, administered by the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board, to provide treatment services to low income, under insured women.

Status: Passed the Senate and its Assembly policy committee. Senator Speier is negotiating with the

Governor's office seeking his support. Is in the Assembly Appropriations Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

SB 1432 (Deirdre Alpert, D—San Diego)

Purpose: To allow employers to investigate alleged acts of unlawful harassment of one employee by another. The investigation may include consultation with a licensed private investigator or with persons qualified in human resource management.

Status: Assigned to the Senate Judiciary Committee. No hearing date set yet.

LLP Position: Support.

Davis Does It Again

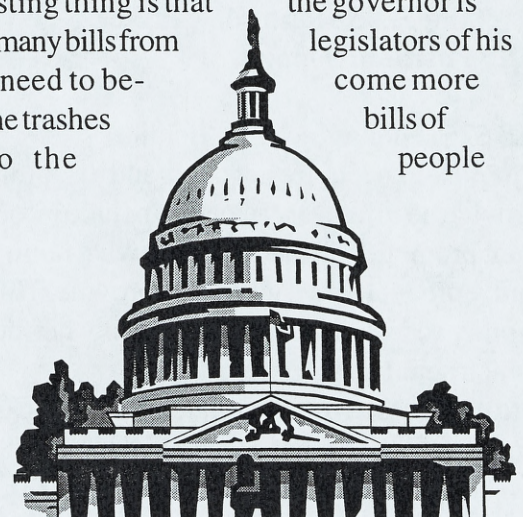
Continued from page 1

This is a toothless substitute for SB 1389.

But Davis wasn't finished. Early this year Senator Betty Karnette (D—Long Beach) introduced SB 1329. The purpose of the bill was to establish a permanent process for the issuance of special-interest license plates and for the donation of the proceeds from the sale of these plates to charitable organizations.

As originally written, the bill stipulated that no money could go to organizations that discriminate on the basis of race, gender, nationality, religion, political party affiliation, or sexual orientation. In mid-May, the governor forced Karnette to remove this non-discrimination language from the bill. There is a separate bill in this year's legislature that would allow for the issuance of special-interest license plates in support of the Boy Scouts. This bill is SB 1366, introduced by Senator Dick Monteith (R—Modesto). Was Governor Davis fearful that the non-discrimination language in SB 1329 would invalidate the Boy Scouts bill?

The interesting thing is that the governor is cannibalizing so many bills from legislators of his own party. We need to be- come more assertive when he trashes bills of importance to the people of California.



All in Fairness

Continued from page 1

duces inflationary pressures. But if fewer products are being bought, fewer people are needed to make them. Inevitably, higher interest rates have led to increases in unemployment.

So how does this impact workers? The people with the fewest skills and poorest education are always hired last. The only time the least qualified job seekers will ever find work is when the unemployment rate approaches zero and employers have no one else to hire. But the Federal Reserve won't let that happen.

The unemployment rates for blacks and Latino/as have always been higher than for white/non-Hispanic workers. For most of the past 25 years the unemployment rate for both groups has been in the double digits. For blacks it has been as high as 20 percent; for Latino/as as high as 15 percent.

During the first half of the 1990s reductions in the unemployment rate occurred almost exclusively in the white community. However things changed in the last four years. During that time unemployment decreased 25 percent for whites, but 35 percent for blacks and 30 percent among Latino/as. Probably employers were running out of qualified white workers and were forced to turn more to minorities for new workers. Even so, the current unemployment rate for whites is 3.5 percent while it is 7.2 percent for blacks and 5.4 percent for Latino/as.

In my view this drives home two main points. First, our current system of managing the economy means that some people are absolutely prohibited from working. It may well be that raising interest rates is the best way to control inflation. However, fairness requires that, as long as we continue this policy, we have an unshakable obligation to assure that the needs of these people are provided for in some other way, such as a welfare program that is always there when they need it. There should be no lifetime limits on the amount of time people can spend on welfare. Second, there is still some very real racism in this country and we have an obligation to do all that we can to eliminate this blot on our society.

A Celebration of Pride for the Transgender Community

The LA Gay & Lesbian Center will host a groundbreaking day-long event, "Trans-Unity 2000", a festival of music, dancing, entertainment, and educational outreach on Sunday, June 18th. The event is free to all.



"The transgender community is probably the single most misunderstood community in the country," says Greg Cardona, who coordinated the Center's Positive Images and WeHo Care programs. "Transgender people are a part of this society and deserve the same respect and rights as anyone else."

"It's going to be a really 'up' event," reports Loretta Worthington, one of Trans-Unity coordinators. "We're going to have a variety show, great refreshments, and dancing in The Village's courtyard. Also, a number of agencies, organizations, and businesses that serve the transgender community will be there to tell people about the resources that are available for them."

The event is a joint presentation by the Gay & Lesbian Center, the Community Prevention Council, the Unique Women's Coalition, the Alcoholism Center for Women, Asian-Pacific AIDS Intervention Team, Minority AIDS Project, Bienestar, Van Ness Recovery House, and is sponsored by Planet Out, one of the community's most popular Web sites.

This celebration of pride for the transgender community takes place Sunday, June 18th, at The Village at Ed Gould Plaza, 1125 N. McCadden Place, Hollywood, California. Hours: 3pm-10pm. For more information, call (323) 860-7332.

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Experience: The person selected must be familiar with and comfortable with various computer programs. Experience as an Office Mgr. with duties involving the supervision of employee's is also highly desired. The person selected must have a firm grasp of spelling and grammar in written form. Most importantly the person selected must have strong people communication skills.

Please submit resume to:

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Deadline: June 30, 2000